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The BG News December 2, 2005

Bowling Green State University

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CHRISTMAS TIME:
Area kids are walkin' through a children's wonderland; **PAGE 8**

BG NEWS

Bowling Green State University

A daily independent student press

FRIDAY
December 2,
2005

SNOW SHOWERS
HIGH: 30 LOW: 20

www.bgnews.com
VOLUME 100 ISSUE 68

"They agree we need a pay raise, but won't do it."

MARK REEF, POLICE UNION LEADER

Hanging in there for a raise

Campus police hope BG trustees will approve their first major salary change in years

By Holly Abrams
CAMPUS NEWS EDITOR

Campus police officers and dispatchers will be eagerly awaiting the Board of Trustees' meeting this afternoon, as board members should vote on their union's three-year contract proposal.

This vote follows six months of negotiating between the University and members of the International Union of Police Associations Local 103, after the union's contract expired in April 2005.

And negotiations came to a climax at the Sept. 30 meeting of the Board, when they rejected an independent report showing BGSU police officers and dispatchers were paid less than almost every other college police unit in Ohio.

Union members already agreed to the proposed contract on Nov. 18, passing it by an "overwhelming majority," according to Corporal Mark Reef, president of IUPA Local 103.

Now their future is up to the Board. The contract calls for a \$1.80 per hour market wage increase for officers, with a 3 percent payroll increase each year for three years.

For dispatchers a 65-cent per hour market increase is proposed, also with a 3 percent payroll increase each year for three years.

Facts say: Big raise needed

The fact-finding examiner — appointed by the State Employment Relations Board — recommended that officers get a \$2 per hour market wage increase for the first year with a 3 percent payroll increase. For the second year the fact-finder recommended a \$1.75 raise and 2.75 percent increase, and for the third year a \$1.50 raise with a 2.5 percent increase.

For dispatchers, a 75-cent raise was recommended for the first year with a 3 percent increase, a 65-cent raise and a 2.75 percent increase for the second year and a 55-cent raise and 2.5 percent increase for the third year.

"What it [fact-finder] did really for membership was it was a vindication that we were grossly underpaid," said William Dunn, a business agent for the IUPA.

Dunn has negotiated and enforced several contracts with IUPA Local 103, and acts as the chief spokesman for the union at meetings with the University.

The results by the fact-finder were

HEARTS ON THEIR SLEEVES

Union members printed up more than 200 T-shirts to give to friends and family members to wear in support of campus police and dispatchers. City police and firefighters received shirts, as did some students on campus. The officers are hoping a union pay increase plan will be approved. University police are currently among the lowest-paid in Ohio.

more than the officers expected, Reef said.

"It's a gamble anytime we go to fact-finder. It surprised us as big as it was, what their findings were," he said. "They had never seen that much awarded."

But a \$7 per hour raise is needed right now for officers to receive even mid-to-average pay compared to other university officers, according to Reef.

The Board's reasons for initially rejecting the fact-finding examiner's report included being "constrained to act within the challenges presented by lessening State support."

"Only about 30 percent of our funding comes from the state," said Tom Trimboli, general counsel in the President's Office. "Not too many years ago it was twice that amount."

Trimboli is representing the employees — BGSU — in contract negotiations.

In addition, the Board has said "its obligation to others" won't allow them to approve the fact-finder's suggested 45 percent base pay rates increase over a three year period.

Mixed history

This is not the first time a fact-finder has been called on for contract negotiations.

Fact-finder was brought in 1993 to evaluate a past police union contract, and produced a report accepted by both the union and University, according to Rebecca Ferguson, assistant vice president in the department of Human Resources. In 2002 negotiators went to fact-finder again, but no report was issued.

This new contract proposal has come with compromise by the union.

Officers lost their requests for increased night and afternoon shift premiums and changes in sick leave and holiday pay, Reef said.

"It's substantially less," he said. "Basically the University doesn't want to pay that kind of money. They agree we need a pay raise, but won't do it."

During research for the fact-finder, union members collected over 120 pages of information, and found they were seriously underpaid.

Many universities are feeling the pinch as state funding cuts are enforced, but BGSU's officers' wages are in the lower 25th percentile of all campus officers in Ohio, according to Reef.

If approved today, the proposed contract will bring the pay scale for campus

officers "up about half way" compared to similar institutions, Reef said.

The top pay for police officers at BGSU is \$32,593 per year compared to \$40,497 at the University of Toledo, or \$56,846 per year at The Ohio State University, according to their Human Resource departments.

For dispatchers at BGSU, the top pay is \$27,372 per year compared to \$25,688 at UT and \$34,997 at OSU.

According to information in the fact-finding report, six years ago President Ribeaun acknowledged the wage issues and committed to make changes.

But BGSU police have yet to see the

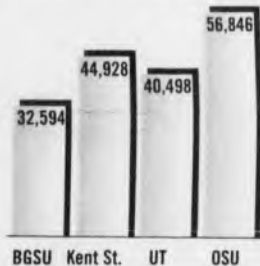
DISPATCHERS' SALARY

A comparison of yearly salary for police dispatchers employed by Ohio universities. All amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.



OFFICERS' SALARY

A comparison of yearly salary for police officers employed by Ohio universities. All amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.



Source: Corresponding Human Resources Depts.
Amy Dehring BG News

POLICE, PAGE 5

Photo Illustration by Jordan Flower and Pat Dorsman BG News

International students beat language barrier

Classes help in slow transition to slang, Americanized idiom

By Jessica Zamarripa
REPORTER

This semester has been Ricardo Mendoza's first as a teaching assistant at the University.

Originally from Colombia, Spanish is Mendoza's first language. He also knows some French and can read Greek and Latin.

English not being his first language, his accent sometimes makes it difficult for students to understand what

is being said.

"Language has been one of the hardest things to adjust to," Mendoza said. "When it's not your first language, you don't always have all the words to explain it."

Sometimes it's frustrating, for both himself and students, when students don't understand what he's trying to say, according to Mendoza.

In order to practice English, Mendoza watches TV in English and makes sure to watch the news in English every day.

SPEAK, PAGE 2

Junior 'numbs' BG

Fashionably Numb is child of enthusiasm, market for promoters

By Emily Rippe
REPORTER

Starting an independent business is exactly as hard as it sounds — and even harder in a business as unpredictable and fickle as the music industry.

But Alex Merced, junior, who had always dreamt of being a "kick-ass" concert promoter, would be damned if the odds stood in his way, and acted upon his ambitious thoughts when he created Fashionably Numb Music in the Fall of 2005.

FNM is a promotions agency

for bands interested in playing venues in northwest Ohio.

"I started being a promoter during the Fall of 2004 at the WBGUFM Expo, and a pair of benefit shows at Howard's Club H," Merced said.

This experience got Merced thinking about bigger plans.

"I decided to try making my own promotions outfit similar to the other main two in town, Taking on Explosives and Subtle Car Crash," Merced said. "I thought I had youthful enthusiasm and something to bring to the table."

What Merced most definitely has is a clear vision of how to get the most out of the University music scene.

"My goal was mainly to help bridge the gap between BGSU and Howard's because I think it's such an amazing venue, and people don't realize the caliber of shows that happen each week," Merced said.

On Sept. 4, Fashionably Numb Music had its inaugural show at Howard's Club H with Rediscover, The Lab Rats, and The Drama

PROMOTER, PAGE 2

Students will lose sleep for film festival

By Sandy Meade
REPORTER

A lot of work is involved in making and editing a film, but imagine having to do all of it in 48 hours.

It's a lot of pressure to be under — and you probably wouldn't sleep much that weekend — but with finals week rapidly approaching, Alex Burnelle is looking forward to today's 48-hour Film Festival Version 3.0.

Sponsored by the University Film Organization, the festival is a competition open to all stu-

SPEEDFILM, PAGE 2

FOUR-DAY FORECAST

The four-day forecast is taken from weather.com

SATURDAY



Some flurries
High: 34°
Low: 22°

SUNDAY



Partly Cloudy
High: 35°
Low: 18°

MONDAY



Some flurries
High: 32°
Low: 16°

TUESDAY



Few Snow Showers
High: 29°
Low: 20°

FOR ALL THE NEWS VISIT WWW.BGNEWS.COM

BG offers to help foreign TAs

SPEAK, FROM PAGE 1

"I do everything in English, except for some classes," Mendoza said.

Mendoza is also taking English 505, English for international teaching assistants, which helps with pronunciation, vocabulary and adjusting to culture in the United States.

Aside from the English class, there are two main programs to help graduate and international students transition into teaching, the Graduate Student Enhancement Program (GradSTEP) and an orientation program through the Center for International Programs.

The GradSTEP provides an orientation a week before classes start in the fall, which is for graduate students, both domestic and international, according to Barbara Peck, director of GradSTEP.

Some of the sessions at the last GradSTEP orientation, geared toward international students who will be TAs were

"Language has been one of the hardest things to adjust to. When it's not your first language, you don't always have all the words to explain it."

RICARDO MENDOZA,
TEACHING ASSISTANT

"Understanding Your American Students" and "Understanding International Students in Your Classroom."

"[The sessions] help them know what to expect from their American students," Peck said. "We want to make sure the TAs are prepared."

The Center for International Programs also helps international TAs be prepared for teaching, which occurs two weeks before the start of fall semester classes.

They learn about local laws,

foods and the currency system in the United States. They're also briefly taught about different educational systems.

"There may be differences between what they grew up with and what we have here," said Anne Saviers, associate director of the international program.

According to Saviers, knowing ahead of time what to expect when they're teaching a class at the University helps the international TAs feel more comfortable in the classroom.

When a problem does occur, "Most international students welcome students talking to them outside of class when they don't understand something," Saviers said.

Mendoza is no different. He encourages his students to stop by his office whenever they have a question.

"I am always available to help students," Mendoza said. "They appreciate that I make time for them and they stop in frequently."

Bands getting a boost with the help of local concert promoter

PROMOTER, FROM PAGE 1

Summer.

For The Drama Summer's guitarist, Anthony Damschroder, the show was a big success — in large part due to FNM's tireless promotional efforts.

"FNM did a great job promoting that show with flyers all over campus," Damschroder said. "His hard work lead to a great turnout."

Since then, The Drama Summer has worked with FNM six other times, and they continue to book shows with Alex Merced as much as possible.

"His shows keep getting better each time," Damschroder said.

FNM has worked with bands both local and from across the Midwest — including Chiodos, Mommy and Daddy, The Impossible Shapes, Aqueduct, 3, Stylex, Adair, The Fall of Troy, Mammoths Melting Out of the Ice, Phantasmagoria, and many others.

Phantasmagoria — a band from Toledo — has been working with FNM for a little over a month. Band member Dom Gray appreciates Alex Merced's hard work for his band.

"He [Merced] has definitely made it easier to play shows in Bowling Green," Gray said. "Alex got us booked at the Black Swamp Pub on November 18, 2005, and that turned out to be one of our best shows, with a lovely amount of people."

Aaron Pickens, another member of Phantasmagoria, appreciates the band lineups that FNM creates.

"We were lined up in November with Mammoths Melting Out of the Ice because Alex said that we would be an amazing match for shows," Pickens said. "I don't think anyone could have said it better than him."

Members of Phantasmagoria claim to have gained several new fans, friends, and another

band to play shows with — all thanks to Fashionably Numb Music.

And all the fruits from all this labor are even sweeter for those who know how hard it is to organize a concert.

"Promoting definitely is an art," Merced said. "You need to know which bands go together and what order to put them in, and it takes a lot of mistakes before you get the formula right."

FNM is barely three months old, but Merced has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time.

"I've learned who really are the shining stars of the local scene — bands like Mammoths Melting Out of the Ice, Phantasmagoria, Bullet Teeth, and the Press Gang," Merced said. "All of them I can see headlining big venues in the future, and in seeing this, I feel that it would be nice to put my imprint on that happening, a sort of legacy, I guess."

Film festival forces students to create magic in 48 hours

SPEEDFILM, FROM PAGE 1

dents, regardless of the level of experience in film making and editing they have.

Burnelle, sophomore, has participated in the festival before, and describes it as "tireless work."

"In that 48 hours, I got 8 hours of sleep, but I was really satisfied with the end product," he said. "It's a good way to have fun for two straight days and not have to think about anything else, because you don't have time to think about anything else but the project at hand."

And after two straight days of

writing, filming and cutting a movie together, the end product can usually be watched in the time it takes to microwave a frozen dinner.

"There is no time limit on films, but most people put out products between six to 12 minutes," said Ren Bergmann, president of UFO.

All participants are randomly divided into small groups as a precaution against any unfair pre-planning, Bergmann said.

Each group is then given a camera, a tripod, tapes and a list of props and elements that must appear in the film.

The list is just another way to

ensure everyone enters the competition on equal ground.

Bergmann said there are three major steps involved in making a film.

First, each group has to come up with an idea of what kind of film they want to make, how many characters they want to appear in the film, and where the film will take place.

Groups usually spend Friday night figuring all of these things out, he said.

And depending on how quickly they finish may determine if the group starts shooting that night, or if they wait until Saturday.

Usually most groups finish

filming sometime Saturday or early Sunday morning and spend the rest of the time editing.

Sometimes groups finish quickly and others turn their films in seconds before the 5 p.m. deadline on Sunday.

Each film is then shown at the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Theater in Hanna Hall from 7:30 to 10 p.m., which is free and open to the public.

For participants, seeing their projects come to life in a theater is the most rewarding part of the whole experience.

"It's really cool to see your project on a big screen," said Emily Berens, treasurer of UFO. "For

most people, the biggest screen they will see their movies on is their TV, but this is in a real theater using a real projector."

Participants also learn a lot by being involved in the festival, Bergmann said.

"It really shows people that it doesn't take much of a time commitment to make your own quality product," he said.

It also teaches people how to maximize their skills while working in a group under a lot of stress, and can even serve as a resume builder for some participants.

Dustin Meadows, a sophomore and vice president of UFO, will participate for a second time in the contest this year.

"It's an interesting experience because you get to work with people you don't know," he said. "It's a highly collaborative effort and above everything else, it's a lot of fun."

"It's also a good chance for students who have never worked with UFO or film to kind of get a feel for it," Meadows added.

His advice for those planning to compete is to delegate responsibilities, which helps team members determine which areas they excel at and which might be bet-

ter left to someone else.

"It's a really good way of networking and learning how to work with people," Meadows said.

After hearing about the festival, Laurel Gans, freshman, is looking forward to cutting a film in just two days.

"It sounded like a lot of fun and a good way to meet people with similar interests," she said.

As of Tuesday night, 21 people had already registered, according to Berens, and UFO is hoping to have at least 25 participants total.

The cost is \$10, and is bur-sarable with a student ID in hand. Students can sign up at 411 South Hall at 4:30 p.m. today, and the competition begins promptly at 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the group with the best film.

Editors Note: For more information about UFO or the film festival, log on to <http://www.bgsu.edu/studentlife/organizations/film> or contact Emily Berens at eberens@bgsu.edu.



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WOMEN'S CLUB TO HOST TOUR OF HOMES

The Women's Club of Bowling Green is hosting its Holiday Tour and Boutique tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five homes are on the tour, and tickets are \$10. The Boutique will be held at the Women's Club, 134 N. Prospect Ave. from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Seventeen vendors will be participating, and admission to the Boutique is free.

www.bgnews.com/campus

CAMPUS

**BG NEWS
BRIEFING**
THE BG NEWS**Bursarable media sale held in library**

Thousands of LPs, 78s, cassettes, 8-tracks, CDs, books and an array of video equipment will be up for grabs today and tomorrow at the Jerome Library's Record and Book Sale.

With prices averaging between 50 cents - \$1, items can be purchased with cash, or a student's bursar account. The sale will be held in the Pallister Conference Room on the Library's first floor today from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fraternity running canned food drive

The Phi Mu Alpha fraternity is sponsoring a canned food drive today through next Friday. The fraternity will also accept warm clothing items. Items can be dropped off at 1031 Moore Musical Arts Center. For more information, e-mail John Augustine at jaugust@bgsu.edu.

get a life

The calendar of events is taken from
<http://events.bgsu.edu/>

8 a.m.

A campus wide Kwanzaa celebration will be held Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. The event will feature the Sanfoka African American Museum on Wheels from South Carolina, the history and principles of Kwanzaa and a variety of entertainment. A soul food dinner will be served and the event is open to the public. All tickets are \$12. Cash, Check, Bursar and department budget transfers accepted.
CMAI Office, Union Information Desk

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The Poe Road Public Art Project: Student Proposals
Union Art Gallery

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

53rd Annual Faculty/Staff Exhibition
An opportunity to appreciate the efforts of some of the finest artists in this region, this exhibition pres-

ents work in a wide range of media by current and emeriti faculty and current staff members of the School of Art. An opening reception will be held today from 7-9 p.m.
Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery, Fine Arts Center

2 p.m.

How to Make the Portal Work for You
A hands-on instructional forum to introduce MyBGSU users to the functions available within the portal and how to customize the portal to work best for each individual user. Sessions are open to all BGSU faculty, staff, and students, seating is limited. No registration is necessary.
128 Hayes Hall

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Moderation in Political Thought
Presented by the Social Philosophy and Policy Center
301 Shatzel Hall

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

"Greatness and Modern Politics: In Search of Tocqueville's Paradoxical Moderation"
Visiting Scholar Aurelian Craiutu
Craiutu is an assistant professor of political science at Indiana University- Bloomington. A public reception will be held at La Maison Francaise, 708 Ridge Street 301 Shatzel Hall following the discussion.

6:30 p.m.

Friday Evening Early Show: "Dukes of Hazzard"
Union Theater

8 p.m.

"Anton in Show Business" by Jane Martin
Presented by BGSU Department of Theatre & Film
Tickets: Adults \$10, Children (under 12) \$5
Eva Marie Saint Theatre

Colleges strive for gourmet

Universities try to improve quality of campus food service

By Nancy Luna

SANTA ANA, Calif. — Chefs at a busy Orange dining hall whip up a gourmet lunch feast that would make any foodie's mouth water: blackened pollock drizzled with tomato coulis served over a bed of jambalaya, a fajita salad topped with tender chunks of "hangar" beef strips and deli sandwiches made with artisan bread.

The locally caught fish and regional dishes cater to the palate of the buffet eatery's most demanding customer: college students. Indeed, the galloping gourmet has hit the halls of academia.

National and local universities are spicing up cafeteria menus as more students prefer fancier fare to traditional mess-hall meals.

Chapman University started

rolling out fresh-Mex specials, grilled sandwiches, vegan rice bowls and pan-seared salmon on this fall. Coming soon at Cal State Fullerton, woks will move near serving lines to showcase fresh stir-fry meals, while UC Irvine plans to add a sushi chef and specialty concessions in 2007.

"I think freshness is a big deal with students who want to feel like they are getting a meal that's not from a chafing dish," said Kurt Borsting, director of Cal State Fullerton's Titan Student Union.

Campus food service ranks third behind academics and location as the most important factor students consider when choosing a college, according to Porter Consulting Worldwide, an independent food-service consulting firm.

"We are finding that when a student ranks the first two equal, then food service will make or break a decision," said Robin Porter, president of the Washington D.C.-based firm.

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QUOTEUNQUOTE

"Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right."

Laurens Von der Post
(quotationspage.com)

www.bgnews.com/opinion

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Poor pay an insult to police, BGSU

BGSU's police officers and dispatchers are some of the lowest paid at public universities in Ohio.

This is embarrassing and needs to stop, starting today at this afternoon's Board of Trustees meeting.

The University has the opportunity today to fix this by approving a new contract for the University's officers and dispatchers.

That contract includes an \$1.80 per hour increase for officers and 65-cent raise for dispatchers. It

YOU DECIDE

What measures can the University take to ensure its police are properly compensated? Send an e-mail to thenews@bgnews.com or post feedback on our Web site.

would also provide a 3 percent payroll increase every year for the next three years.

Campus police officers have already responded positively to the contract by passing it with

an overwhelming majority on their union.

But just because it's good enough for campus police now doesn't mean that this measure is the best one for the University's future.

Even if the Board of Trustees decides to adopt this contract, the fact is that the officers and dispatchers will continue to be inadequately compensated for all the hard work they do.

While the pay increase may be welcomed by the police union, it

is still not enough money. The proposed raises for officers and dispatchers only brings their pay about halfway to where it ought to be — comparable to that of campus police at other Ohio schools.

BGSU's police make less money than almost all other public institutions in the state. While the highest-paid officer at the University makes about \$32,000 a year, the top earners at Kent State and Ohio University both make almost \$45,000 a year.

The duties police officers and dispatchers fulfill are too important to keep them so underpaid.

Without campus police, our residence halls and even the buildings in which we take our classes would be less safe places.

Officers patrol our campus at all times to ensure the maximum security of students. Dispatchers assist those officers in responding to each call in the quickest manner.

Where would we be without these services? We know that our

campus cannot do without the protection of its police force, so why does the University diminish the importance of their work by undercompensating them?

Campus safety is a large concern for parents who are considering sending their high school seniors to BGSU. An exemplary campus safety record puts a parent's mind at ease.

If the Board of Trustees wants to continue record enrollments, they must convince us that they take students' safety seriously.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homeless don't choose to be without shelter

I found the advertisement for Winthrop and Summit Terraces that depicted a young man sleeping on cardboard wearing only shorts to be offensive and in poor taste.

The text, "Need Better Living

Conditions?" left one to believe that people sleep outside by choice, that people who find themselves outside at night should simply call the Winthrop and Summit to get a place to stay rather than sleep outside.

Living at the Winthrop and Summit is a choice.

For those who do not have a bed of their own, insinuating that inadequate shelter is a "choice" is insulting and misinformed.

Also, yesterday's ad with a

person sleeping in the trunk of a car leads me to believe that the Winthrop and Summit Terraces find these ads both appropriate and effective.

Finding yourself without adequate shelter happens for many reasons, but I do not believe that it is a "choice." Making fun of people without adequate shelter is a choice.

KAREN E. SHULTZ
GRADUATE STUDENT
keshult@bgsu.edu

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Would you ever consider having plastic surgery?



JON HALVERSTADT
SENIOR, HISTORY

"No. God made me just the way I am."



KRISTEN KULBIS
JUNIOR, ACCOUNTING/
FINANCE

"No. I'm not into the whole 'fake' thing."



ALISON BURKHART
JUNIOR, EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

"Yes. There's always room for improvement."



KERENSA FRALEY
SENIOR, PSYCHOLOGY

"Yes. I would like to have bigger ears."

One little word has large impact

One of my best friends is white, and he is a cashier at a grocery store. He's been working there for a little over five years, making over \$12 an hour.

The moral of the story is the harder you work and the more committed you are to your goals, the more likely you are to succeed — even if it is just saying, "Price check on Colgate!"

One day while working, a black man came through his line. My friend prepared to greet him like he does all of his customers, but before he could, the customer referred to him as a "cracker."

My friend was concerned with how this insult was launched with no type of provocation. He hadn't said anything before the customer spoke, so for him to be put in the situation was completely unfair to him.

My concern, however, is the fact that the word has been deemed useable in the first place. Our society has no qualms with using the word to

the extent that The BG News can ethically print the word "cracker" without having to deal with a tirade of angry letters to the editor.

Let's change the scenario, shall we? Imagine that my friend was black and a white man came through his line.

If that one word was used (you know, the one that starts with the 14th letter of the alphabet) to insult the cashier, the NAACP would be called, and you can imagine that this single incident would be the cause of great unrest in the entire city of Bowling Green.

This double standard cannot be defended. My friend was angry the same way that I would have been if someone came through my checkout line and called me something as insulting.

Disrespect is disrespect, so if you can't insult me, I can't insult you.

The problem is that there is a social hierarchy that is developing that is challenging and disrupting the moral fiber of our country.

As our country fights valiantly to overcome diversity, we must be aware that allowing certain racial groups to openly degrade others (where the reverse is never true) is counterproductive.

The disparaging word to describe African-Americans is, perhaps, the most offensive



D.J. JOHNSON

Opinion Columnist

word in the English language, but when modified, it can be used (by African-Americans only) as a term of masculine endearment.

Essentially, we have a word that was based out of hatred and elitism becoming a word which furthers segregation and isolates segments of our population from one another.

Perhaps the best twist of all is that they both exist in our society today, reminding all of us that equality is relative, and even worse, perceptual.

But this problem isn't completely racial.

Straight people don't have it easy when gay people roll off an acronym that is a dozen letters long, some of which can be very insulting.

And like the word that starts with the 14th letter of the alphabet, there's a certain word that begins with the sixth letter of the alphabet that gay people can use, but the rest of the population can't.

Why not get rid of these words altogether? What better way to drive home social equality than

getting rid of the language that separates us?

As I see it, modifying and reclaiming these words only causes more problems and more strife between populations, and I'm pretty sure that's not what we're going for.

This solution might not seem efficient, but words in our culture have so much power.

I can think of two words off the top of my head that can be used to describe a woman that can instantly end a relationship. If you've ever used either of these words to describe a girlfriend of yours, you know that you're taking your chances.

Ultimately, even if we get rid of the degrading words we have, someone will come up with new ones to replace them.

It's about time that people stop being concerned about our differences and stop perpetuating this atmosphere of hatred.

Realize that social equality starts with you.

Send comments to D.J. at davidj@bgsu.edu

Acceptance can erase stigmas

LARA LOEWENSTEIN

U-Wire Columnist
Daily Bruin
UCLA

When someone first asked me if I'd have sex with a person with HIV, my immediate answer was a resounding no.

That was during my freshman year of high school, and the only person in the class who gave an affirmative answer was my teacher.

Initially I was shocked by my teacher's response — I couldn't imagine putting myself at risk when I'd been taught my entire life to avoid sexually transmitted infections at all costs.

But after listening to my teacher's explanation and mulling over the idea, I changed my mind.

I have never been faced with such a situation, so I'm speaking in hypothetical terms, but I would hope that someone's HIV status wouldn't be the breaking factor in a relationship.

I would be nervous about the idea of copulating with someone who was HIV-positive, but if I loved the person, I would take the risk.

I'm not trying to encourage people to be less cautious when it comes to STIs, specifically HIV and AIDS — it's extremely important for all people to get tested for all STIs if they're planning to be sexually active, and to take precautionary measures when having sex.

However, there are stigmas that surround HIV and AIDS that are hurtful to people who are infected with the virus and that cause people to react with horror whenever the infection is

mentioned.

Many of the students I talked to immediately assumed that if they contracted HIV, their lives would be over, or at least greatly reduced in length and in quality. A couple people specifically mentioned that they would never be able to have sex again.

While contracting HIV would lead to some huge life changes — there would be daily medications, extra health precautions, doctor's visits and monetary issues — it's harsh to assume that life is over once a person is HIV-positive, or that one would be void of all sexual relationships.

While some people I talked to stressed that an HIV-positive person shouldn't put someone in a position where they would have to make a decision of this sort, I don't think that's the issue.

Personally, I don't know what I would do if I found out that I was HIV-positive, but I would hope that people wouldn't forget that I was a person, and that there are methods of STI prevention, such as condoms, that have an almost 100 percent success rate when used properly.

People who have just found out that they are HIV-positive often face depression, fear of how to balance their health and their future and loneliness. But many patients have proceeded to live healthy lives, which include relationships.

We can't really give a life expectancy for people that are HIV-positive: We simply don't know enough.

The first cases of AIDS were noticed in the early 1980s and the virus wasn't isolated until 1984. So HIV is a relatively new infection.

There are also new medical advances, and both the virus and access to health care affect each person uniquely. But many people who are HIV-positive

continue to lead healthy lives for many years.

While education has been a huge factor in making people aware of the virus, and, for the most part, has done a good job of teaching people caution so as not to contract it, more sex education classes need to discuss the stigmas surrounding HIV and AIDS.

Probably one of the harshest and most hurtful stigmas is blaming the person who is HIV-positive for contracting HIV. People who find out that they're HIV-positive know this is likely and blame for being infected is one of the things they fear.

People forget that everyone makes mistakes sexually. Sometimes those mistakes have bigger repercussions, but blaming people is not constructive. People need support, not guilt.

Many people go through a period of shock after they find out that they're HIV-positive. Even by eradicating the stigmas people associate with HIV, this shock could be reduced if people didn't fear being blamed or discriminated against because of their HIV status.

With the help of medication, people with HIV are living for longer before they develop AIDS. A lot of this has to do with the amount of money that has been allocated to HIV/AIDS research and the work done in places like the UCLA AIDS Institute.

It is not only young adults or sexually active people that are at risk for HIV. The virus affects children too. That's why programs such as Dance Marathon, which benefits the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, are so important.

Hopefully someday HIV and AIDS will no longer be an issue, but until then let's show our support for the people who are strong enough to survive with it.

BG NEWS

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The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 600 and 800 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

POLICIES

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the views of The BG News.

Claims concern administration

White House waits for Pentagon's take on positive war stories

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's spokesman said yesterday that the administration is very concerned about reports that the U.S. military is paying Iraqi newspapers and journalists to plant favorable stories about the war and the rebuilding effort.

"We are seeking more information from the Pentagon," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Bryan Whitman said, as he did a day earlier in response to reporters' inquiries about the reports, that he was seeking details from U.S. military officials in Baghdad. "I have very few facts," Whitman said, adding that he would not confirm the essence of the story until he learned more from Baghdad.

"It's certainly an issue that's easy to get emotional about, and we need to understand the facts, and when we do I'll provide you as much information as I can," Whitman said.

The spokesman said that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was aware of the issue, but he would not say whether Rumsfeld had expressed concern

about it or whether the secretary had asked for additional information about it.

McClellan said that Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated it was news to him, as well. He said Pace said the Pentagon was looking into the reports, although Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a military spokesman in Iraq, said, "I am not aware of any formal review of the program, although it is constantly being assessed for effectiveness."

In Baghdad yesterday, a senior military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, was asked whether he thought the program undercuts the credibility of either the American military or the new Iraqi news media. Lynch did not answer directly but quoted a senior al-Qaida leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, as having told Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the main terrorist leader in Iraq, "Remember, half the battle is the battlefield of the media."

Lynch said Zarqawi lies to the Iraqi people and he said the American military does not.

"We do empower our operational commanders with the ability to inform the Iraqi public, but everything we do is based on fact not based on fiction," Lynch said.

Details about the program were first reported by the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday.

BACK HOME FOR HOLIDAYS



Nam Y. Huh AP Photo

SANTA CLAUS COMES TO NEW ORLEANS: Henry Guste smiles as he touches his Santa hat in downtown New Orleans on Tuesday. The Downtown Development District, the Mayor's office, the Astro Crowne Plaza hotel and Evergreen Agriculture host holiday festivities for residents of New Orleans, and offer free Christmas trees during Christmas tree lights up event on Canal street in Downtown New Orleans. Hurricane season will be over tomorrow.

BGSU police can assist other forces but don't get paid like them

POLICE, FROM PAGE 1

change Ribeau promised, Dunn said.

"The University said it was interested in doing something but it hasn't been done," he said. "The matter had not been resolved."

While bringing BGSU police employees' pay up to par with other campus police in Ohio hasn't happened yet, the University has given them raises each year, according to Trimboli.

"I think significant process has been made and they are being addressed by market adjustments," he said. "The tentative agreement does have a higher wage scale than before."

Reef said part of the reason the union wants to be on the same pay level as other campus police is because of a mutual aid agreement the University has with other Ohio schools.

BGSU officers can be called on to work at other campuses in Ohio for large events, and should there-

fore be paid similar wages, according to Reef.

Along with doing spot-work at other campuses — like Kent State University and OSU among others — BGSU officers have talked with them about their own contract situations.

"UT was nice enough to give us a copy of their contract," Reef said. "As it is there's quite a few of us working together and we're going to keep an open dialogue."

In addition to support from other universities, officers have

seen student support on campus.

Luke Moneypenny, a senior who also works as a campus service officer, stood outside the Student Union in a T-shirt and shorts for three hours back on Nov. 18.

Moneypenny collected over 100 messages of support for the union on a 10-foot banner, and presented it to members as they met that day to vote on the contract.

"I love all of the officers here," he said. "It was about just showing the officers if they hold out the support is there."

After patrolling the streets of campus day in and day out, officers were grateful to see students support them.

"It really, really made the rest of us feel good that day," Reef said.

Union members are hopeful the Board will accept the contract.

"We're pretty confident they're going to approve it because it was their proposal," Reef said.

Board members will go into executive session at the meeting and decide whether to approve

the contract.

"There will be a resolution prepared if the Board of Trustees approves the contract," Trimboli said. "They were advised previously of the negotiations and updated."

But regardless of the outcome of today's vote, union members remain hopeful for negotiations down the road, according to Dunn.

"There's more work to be done in the future and hopefully more amicably than this time," he said.



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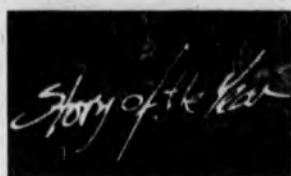
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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
VOLUME 100 ISSUE 68

Take a closer look at the new winter films



JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM
Columnist

"Brokeback Mountain"

Starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger

Release Date: Dec. 9

"Brokeback Mountain" tells the story of two modern-day cowboys, the bond they form with each other throughout their lives, and the effect it has on those around them.

Directed by Academy Award-nominated Director Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), "Brokeback Mountain" has received loads of critical praise since it debuted at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year, where it took the top prize.

With its heartbreakingly tragic tale of love and the bond between friends, the film has also been getting positive reviews from its audiences. Both men and women were seen crying while leaving the theater.

With a high-caliber director such as Lee and great performances by Ledger and Gyllenhaal, "Brokeback Mountain" is one of the favorites to win the Best Picture Oscar next February.

"Memoirs of a Geisha"

Starring Ziyi Zhang, Ken Watanabe and Michelle Yeoh

Release Date: Dec. 9

Based on the international best-selling novel "Memoirs of a Geisha," this movie is next in line behind "Brokeback Mountain" to be the front runner at the Oscars next year.

MOVIES, PAGE 10

THE ATARIS

Acoustic tour makes a stop at Bowling Green

By Jess Wagner
PULSE EDITOR

Whether it's living out of a hotel room or eating on the road, Kris Roe of the Ataris wouldn't have it any other way.

And with the addition of some new band members and a new sound, Roe (guitar, vocals) and John Collura (guitar) have taken the show on the road for a mini-acoustic tour across the country.

They stopped at Howard's Club H last night, performing with Bancroft, Sarasine and Attacked by Wolves. The show was put on by Taking On Explosives, a Northwest Ohio promotions group.

After forming in 1997, The Ataris worked to promote their name and music. Roe said they gave their demo to other bands coming through the Indianapolis area to spread their sound.

This aided in the birth of the Ataris.

In 2003, the band released "Boys of Summer," a cover of Don Henley's 1984 hit.

After large commercial success, they decided to take a break from the music scene, and some members went their separate ways.

"If you compare our growth from point A to point F and skip everything in between, I think it wouldn't make much sense if



LOOKIN' TOUGH: Four members of The Ataris pose while standing in front of a wall. Two of the members, Kris Roe (second from left) and John Collura, played at Howard's Club H last night.

you were listening to what we did when we began to what we did now," Roe said. "I think if you do the math, this band was always evolving and sometimes we just made evolution in bigger moves."

What the band has evolved into now is what Roe likes to call "dark, dreamy and atmospheric."

That same sound is what

allowed their new album, "Welcome the Night" to become a finished product. Roe said the album is set to be released around April.

"It's one of those albums you put on when it's a beautiful, gray day outside and you're just sitting around and you want something to be that soundtrack, that background

music," Roe said. "We weren't necessarily trying to go for anything in particular. It sounds like seven people in a room performing together and that really pushed us to be better players and to actually capture this element of this energy we had when we were all in the room together."

Roe also said The Ataris

are planning a much larger tour to kick off the release of their CD.

Until then, Roe and Collura are doing what they love to do: performing in small venues in front of small crowds.

They seem to find fulfillment in a more "intimate" setting.

ATARIS, PAGE 10

Children's Wonderland spreads Christmas spirit

Lucas County holiday tradition entertains local families, children

By Mike Robinson
REPORTER

Children's Wonderland, a Christmas tradition in Lucas County, has opened its doors for the 42nd time.

The event is held at the Lucas County Recreation Center and is host to many activities aimed at local families. Kids can get their picture taken with Santa and take a ride on a mini-train called the "Wonderland Express."

Laura Nowak-Glover, consultant to Children's Wonderland, said the annual event is an essential family tradition for the community.

"I think Children's Wonderland is important for this area because it has been here for 42 years and it seems like a lot of things in Toledo and the surrounding area die out fast," she said. "That's why I try to make sure people grasp this every year. Children's Wonderland is the only thing like it in the area."

Children's Wonderland is also home to over 30 animated displays, which all tell different holiday-related stories. Organizers hope the colorful displays of Christmas carolers and reindeer



Eric Steele, BG News

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: A display of Christmas carolers can be seen in the Lucas County Recreation Center's Children's Wonderland. The exhibit opened for its 42nd season on Nov. 25.

will appeal to all age groups.

The doors of Children's Wonderland opened on Nov. 25 and will close on Dec. 31. The month-long holiday celebration might be over at the end of the year, but the preparation for next year's Children's Wonderland isn't far from sight.

The planning for this year's Children's Wonderland began in March, and next year will be no exception.

Although the main sponsor

of Children's Wonderland has been the Lucas County Board of Commissioners since its beginning, the organizers of the event still search for new sponsors each year.

The first phase of planning for the event involves making calls to companies to search for sponsorship. After sponsorship is secured, design and construction of the animated displays begins.

"We build it from the ground-

up," Nowak-Glover said. "We started on the 15th of October to set up. It's absolutely amazing to see the amount of work that has gone into this, and to work with the people who have done it for years."

Taking on such an enormous task can be daunting for the crew of Children's Wonderland, and things don't always go as expected.

WONDERLAND, PAGE 10



Photo Provided

LOTSA 'BOXES: A number of Xbox 360 faceplate designs are available for customers to choose from, but it'll cost you \$300-\$400.

Xbox 360 nice but too pricey



DAN MYERS
Assistant Editor

As you read this very newspaper, there are hundreds of Xbox 360 video game consoles being sold on eBay for thousands of dollars.

After spending several hours with the console and a few of its games, I can understand why people are so keyed up for a 360 — but it's certainly not worth a few thousand bucks.

The \$300 to \$400 the system retails for might be pushing

it, even.

While there are improvements across the board on the 360 over the original Xbox — including a better laid-out controller, more content on Xbox Live and prettier graphics — there are no drastic leaps in the console's abilities.

The controller is very similar to the Xbox's S-Controller, but with smoother curves, a huge button in the center that calls up the 360's "dashboard" — more on that in a minute — and a pair of shoulder buttons above the triggers.

XBOX, PAGE 9

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF

A CAMPUS TOUR GUIDE

By Chelci Howard
REPORTER

Twelve wide-eyed Midwestern high school students crammed into the elaborately decorated room on the first floor of McFall center on a snow-crested Wednesday afternoon, feeling nothing but the emotion of sheer anticipation.

Soon their feet would take them down a trail that students have maneuvered for over 95 years.

Erin Small would soon be their trail expert, leading them all over campus and of course, to the right of the University seal.

Small is a student tour guide, an occupation in which she has held since the spring semester of last year.

She serves as a liaison between prospective students and the University.

Small, an Arizona native, said wanting to guide the students through the University had something to do with her blood.

"When I went on my campus tour at Bowling Green, it is what made me decide to go to this school," she said. "I fell in love with the feel of the campus and I thought that I would do a good job showing potential students what Bowling Green has to offer because I bleed orange and brown."

Small gives one tour every week, but claims that a lot more work goes into the preparation of a tour versus the actual tour itself.

"We first get into the office



Eric Steele BG News

LEADER: Erin Small, a campus tour guide, has led over 50 groups of prospective University students through the campus. Small said the position has helped her to mature and get involved in the University.

and put on our name tags and then we find out how many students and parents we will have," she said. "We then sign postcards and get drink coupons, and then the student tour coordinator will introduce our group and we take them around campus for about 90 minutes."

But as one could assume, being a tour guide comes with its share of interesting stories and Small has numerous vibrant stories that she has encountered while giving a tour.

She recalled an interesting

story she encountered from a parent.

"We mostly get questions from parents because a lot of the students are a little hesitant to ask questions," she said. "I got this question from a mom who asked what I did when I went to the bathroom. I had to ask her to rephrase what she meant, but it ended up being a concern about the sanitary safety of the residence hall bathrooms."

Small has also had certain mishaps during tours that she said improved her ability to think quickly on her feet.

"One time during a tour, someone yelled an obscenity out of their car window while driving by, which wasn't very fun," Small said. "I was like, 'We here at BG have a good sense of humor!' I have also gone to open doors and they have been locked or they are wrong doors. I would say that would be the most embarrassing thing about my job because it happens to me a lot."

Even though Small has given over 50 tours, there are still parts of the tour that she looks forward to that she considers her favorite parts.

"My favorite things to talk about are the traditions of the seal and the Union," she said. "If you walk to the left of the seal, you will fail a class, so you always walk to the right. If you walk on opposite sides of the seal when you are walking with your significant other, you will break up. But legend has it that if you go and stand on the seal at midnight when there is a full moon, then you will get married."

And now, the student tour guide group is trying to involve current students in the prospective student tours, according to Small.

"We are starting to do the BGSU chant during tours," she said. "We encourage current students to yell 'BG' when they see us on a tour, because we tell the prospective students and their families to return the call of 'SU.' It's just something fun that shows a little school spirit."

Aside from meeting new students and being recognized by current students whom she gave tours to, Small is also looking forward to her new position of student tour coordinator.

She often reflects on how being a tour guide has impacted her life.

"My experience as a tour guide has been one of the experiences that has persuaded me to go to graduate school in the college student personnel field," she said. "It's an awesome opportunity to get involved and has really helped me mature and grow as a student and as a leader," Small said.

360 has new but lackluster features

XBOX, FROM PAGE 8

The shoulder buttons are a little confusing to use because they're referred to as "LB" and "RB" while the triggers are called "LT" and "RT." Perhaps it takes some getting used to, but the buttons' similar names mixed me up more than once.

The Xbox's operating system, called the "dashboard," is always accessible from within games by pressing the aforementioned large button on the controller. It gives access to system options, content on the hard drive (if one is in the system) and Xbox Live.

I like it — it's convenient, easy to use and gives a comforting feeling that the Xbox's OS is never far away.

Xbox Live's options for downloading game demos and buying little extras like new dashboard themes are very nice, but I'm not sure how much people will use them.

Microsoft recently released a "Christmas costume" download for their adventure game "Kameo," which will test the waters for consumer feelings on buying pre-planned extras for games.

The graphics in 360 games are better than those in games for current-generation consoles, but it's barely noticeable on a regular television — an HD set is needed to really be surprised by the 360's power.

Too bad HDTVs are still expensive and fairly few in number in American households.

Yes, the 360 is a fun, powerful system with a lot of potential. It just doesn't excite me enough to buy one before a year passes and the price drops.

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Ice Harvest	12:40 2:45 4:55 7:15 9:25	R
Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire	11:45 12:15 12:45 3:05 3:35 4:05	PG-13
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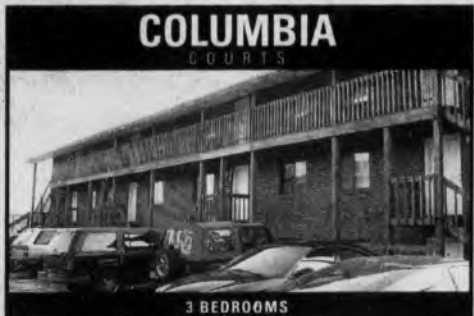
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Kong expected to win with audiences

MOVIES, FROM PAGE 8

The film tells the story of a 9-year-old girl who is sold to a brothel and follows her rise to becoming the most desirable geisha (a Japanese girl trained to provide entertaining company for men) in the country.

Though originally set to be directed by Steven Spielberg, "Chicago's" Rob Marshall ended up with the position and, along with the cast of international stars, has been generating a lot of buzz from critics as one of the best films of the year.

With a strong, capable cast and crew, including "A Beautiful Mind" screenwriter Akiva Goldsman, it's unlikely the critics are wrong.

"King Kong"

Starring Naomi Watts, Jack Black and Adrien Brody
Release Date: Dec. 16

Peter Jackson directs this remake of the 1933 classic, which he credits for influencing him to become a filmmaker. As a follow up to his "Lord of the Rings Trilogy," it is also one of the most hyped movies of the year.



MASSIVE MONKEY: In a scene from "King Kong," Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts) shares a quiet moment at sunrise with Kong atop the Empire State Building, which he scaled in his flight from the streets of New York City.

For those who don't know, "King Kong" tells the story of a film crew's encounter with a giant ape and their efforts to save the film's leading lady from him. Many are anxious to see

if Jackson can live up to the expectations set from his recent success and if he can create a remake that does justice to the original film. Based on the early previews and the buzz sur-

rounding the film, it could even surpass them.

With a strong cast and very experienced film crew behind it, "King Kong" looks to be a big hit with audiences next month.

Wonderland a local tradition for years

WONDERLAND, FROM PAGE 8

"This year, we've come into a lot of road blocks," Nowak-Glover said. "The stars are not lining up as perfectly as normal. We haven't had enough employees this year. We've had a tough time with set-up, due to that. That was our first hurdle."

Nowak-Glover said they've now passed the hurdles, and everything is running smoothly. The importance of the event seems to override any minor problems because the community keeps on coming back, year after year.

Tradition has been important in patrons returning to Children's Wonderland throughout its 42-year span. One of Nowak-Glover's main goals is to keep that tradition alive for future generations.

"We really need to start grasping this and keeping this tradition alive," Nowak-Glover

said. "A lot of children don't get a chance to go on field trips. We're able to help them have a nice tradition and celebrate Christmas in this way and that's pretty much what it's all about."

Part of the tradition of Children's Wonderland involves its location.

The Lucas County Recreation Center has held the event for 41 out of its 42 years. The year Children's Wonderland wasn't at the recreation center was an unsuccessful attempt to bring the activities into the downtown area.

The unneeded change of location broke away from tradition, which is something the staff and patrons didn't care for.

"It's a good aura for everyone, to come in here and be child-like and in the holiday spirit," Nowak-Glover said. "It's stayed alive because of the nostalgia."

Two members of The Ataris perform while others work in studio

ATARIS, FROM PAGE 8

"It's still, to me, more gratifying performing for 200 (people) at one of these small shows because it's really personal," Roe

said. "I think people realize that you're just some kid playing a song, enjoying it and doing it for your love of music."

Before the show, Andy Hutchinson, lead vocalist in

Bancroft, said the band was excited to open for The Ataris.

"We're cautiously optimistic for this show," Hutchinson said. "You're with the big boys so you better play like you're one of the

big boys. We're a band trying to take it to the next level, so there's a little more pressure. But we are very excited. It's a really good opportunity."

While Roe and Collura are out

on the road, the five other band members are keeping busy as well. Roe said they spend their time working in studios and members Paul Carabello (guitar), Sean Hansen (bass) and Shane Chickeles (drums) get to have some down time with their other band Park Ranger.

No matter The Ataris' past or what the future holds, Roe seems to be confident with the direction the band is going in.

He just leaves it all up to destiny. "Fate kind of takes the ball and runs with it for you; you just kind of have to deal with it," Roe said. "We're proud of everything we've done and we're really happy with how things turned out."

The Ataris' Kris Roe and John Collura will be performing tonight at the Fire Escape in Chicago and tomorrow at the Creepy Crawl in St. Louis.

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SPORTS

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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Blake continues to dominate NHL

Former BGSU hockey star lays down the law for the Avalanche

By Kevin Shields
REPORTER

DETROIT, Mich. — It was a long offseason for Rob Blake and the Colorado Avalanche.

After their season came to an end in the Western Conference Semifinals at the hands of the San Jose Sharks, Blake and his teammates weren't sure when they'd be lacing up their skates again as National Hockey League labor talks were taking place.

Now, two seasons later, the Avalanche are back on the ice and are off to a 14-9-3 start. They are currently in a two-way tie for second place in the Northwest Division with the Calgary Flames and are looking to make another run at the Stanley Cup, which has eluded them since the 2001 season — the only championship season for Blake in his 16 NHL seasons.

The BG News got a chance to catch up with the former BG hockey star when the Avalanche traveled to Detroit on Nov. 23. It was a game that the Red Wings won 7-3 as three late third period goals put the game out of reach after three lead changes.

Despite the loss to his rivals, I found Blake was just happy to be playing the game he loves again after having to sit out all of last season.

"It's been fun," he said of this new season. "I think it was a long year for me and the guys and I think everyone in the league was looking forward to



David Zalubowski AP Photo

LAYING THE SMACK DOWN: Colorado Avalanche defenseman Rob Blake, front, drives Calgary Flames left winger Chris Simon into the boards as they fight for control of the puck in the first period in Denver.

getting back and having some exciting hockey."

Exciting has been the way to describe the new NHL season as new rule changes have created higher scoring games and have given fans the opportunity to see the league's skill players make plays that they weren't able to make before.

The center line is no longer in play which is eliminating the two-line pass and with tighter penalty enforcement the defensive schemes, such as the "trap", aren't dominating the action anymore.

"I think the league is heading in the right direction," Blake said. "I think the excitement is

there, the fan participation is there and the skilled players are making plays in the neutral zone that weren't there before."

The 6-foot-4 inch, 225 pound defenseman knows all about making plays as he has arguably been the top defenseman in the league season in and season out.

After playing three years at BG (1987-90), he played for the Los Angeles Kings who drafted him following his freshman season with the Falcons. After many successful seasons with the Kings, that included a Stanley Cup Finals trip in 1993 and a James Norris Trophy in 1998 for being the league's top

defenseman, he was traded to Colorado in 2001.

A few weeks ago, Blake recorded his 600th career point with a power-play goal against Minnesota, becoming only the 29th defenseman in league history to achieve the mark.

BLAKE, PAGE 2

HOCKEY

Falcons face perennial powerhouse Spartans

By Kevin Shields
REPORTER

Winning hasn't come easy for the Falcon hockey team this season.

After having their best season in over a decade, finishing fifth in the league and hosting their first home playoff series since 1994, the team has struggled to find consistent play.

In some games, there has been a lack of offensive production and in others it's been the defensive production. The Falcons (3-9-1, 3-7-1) currently rank 16th nationally averaging 3.46 goals a game, but are near the bottom of the barrel in goals as their opponents are averaging 4.85 goals a game.

"It's definitely been frustrating here at the beginning of the season," BG defenseman Michael Hodgson said. "We just got to focus on coming out hard and finishing hard and playing the full 60 minutes."

This weekend will mark the final Central Collegiate Hockey Association weekend for the Falcons before the winter break as tonight they start the first game of a home-and-home series with the Michigan State Spartans at Munn Ice Arena in East Lansing, Mich. The teams will finish the series tomorrow night at the BG Ice Arena with both face-offs scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

Following this weekend, the Falcons will host two non-league teams in Clarkson and St. Lawrence before heading to the University of Connecticut Classic (Dec. 29-30). Their next CCHA

game won't be for another month as they'll play Colgate (Jan. 3) to open the second half of the season before playing Ohio State on Jan. 6-7.

"It's important that we get ourselves back in the race by earning some points," BG coach Scott Paluch said of the weekend. "We talked so many times of the importance of staying with our pack — we just can't get any further behind now. We need to start getting the rewards for the efforts and winning the league games."

So far BG's only wins have been in the league games, but their inability to produce league points has cost them as they sit in a tie for eighth place just two points from last place Notre Dame. Consequently, MSU (5-6-4, 2-4-3) also sits in the eighth place tie with BG since they've struggled with injuries after getting off to a good start which included a win over national runner-up North Dakota.

"The team we saw earlier in the year is the true Michigan State team," Paluch said. "They're deep and skilled and have two terrific goaltenders. They're starting to get healthy again and are coming off a good tie against Minnesota."

Just like last weekend against Miami, the Falcons will be facing the challenge of trying to squeeze pucks by the good goalie tandem of Jeff Lerg and Dominic Vicari. Both net-minders have goals against averages under three and present themselves as big in the net despite their smaller size.

"It's important that we get ourselves back in the race ...

We need to start getting the rewards for the efforts and winning the league games."

SCOTT PALUCH, COACH

"Those two are arguably the top two goalie tandem in all of college hockey," Paluch said. "Both of those guys are similar in the fact that they move extremely well, fill in the net and make you beat them despite not being overly big."

Up front, the Spartans are loaded with good talented forwards that can be both physical in their play, as well as show some good skill. The other Lerg brother, Bryan, currently leads the team with 17 points.

He is joined by Colton Fretter, their leading-scorer from a year ago, David Booth, Tyler Howells, Drew Miller and Jim McKenzie.

The Spartans will be looking to slow down BG forward Alex Foster, who is leading the nation in points per game with 1.85 and in assists per game with 1.45.

Foster currently ranks second nationally in points with 24 as his four goals and 14 assists for the month of November earned him CCHA Player of the Month honors. His line mate, Jonathan Matsumoto, ranks seventh

HOCKEY, PAGE 13

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Falcons face Braves Saturday

As team gets healthier future looks brighter for Bowling Green

By Sean Corp
SPORTS EDITOR

Going into this weekend's match-up between Bowling Green and the Bradley Braves, the Falcons hope to do something they didn't in their 76-66 loss at Anderson Arena Wednesday — playing 40 minutes of solid basketball.

After a strong first half that saw the Falcons leading by five they came out of the second half flat and never recovered.

It is a fate the Falcons don't want to repeat.

Something that may help BG is the possible return of senior Steven Wright, who has been sidelined all season while recovering from a broken foot. Although his return is far from likely he has started jogging in practices and gets closer to full recovery.

Much more likely is more minutes and a bigger impact from the Falcons sweet shooting Serbian Dusan Radivojevic. Radivojevic played only 13 minutes in his first action of the season against Oakland and went 0-2 from the floor — both three pointers. However, he was also able to provide two assists and two steals in limited action.

"These guys are back on the court, it was nice to have guys back on the court, really nice," said coach Dan Dakich.

Other than the team getting healthier they also must play smarter. The Falcons are averaging 18 turnovers per game, including 19 against Oakland.

Last season the Falcons easily handled Bradley, 81-65, but this year isn't the same matchup because these aren't the same



Julie DiFranco BG News

THREE: Dusan Radivojevic shoots his first attempt of the season against Oakland Wednesday. He may be integral in game against Bradley.

Falcons. Unfortunately, it largely is the same Braves squad.

"The guys that hurt us the most last year are back, and the guys that we hurt them the most with aren't," said Dakich.

The Braves are led by seniors Marcellus Sommerville, Lawrence Wright and Tony Bennett. Against BG last year Wright

led the Braves with 16 points to go with seven rebounds and two blocks.

"Bradley is a really difficult place to play, just a hard-core basketball school," said Dakich earlier in the week. "I haven't really watched them so I don't know a lot about them other than they are very athletic."



Tony Dejak AP Photo

FLYING HIGH

MR. NOVEMBER: CLEVELAND (AP) — The NBA season's first month couldn't have been much better for LeBron James and the Cavaliers. James, who led the club to 10 victories in November, was named the Eastern Conference's player of the month. In 14 games, he averaged 28.4 points, 6.0 rebounds and 4.5 assists as the Cavs went 10-4. James scored at least 25 points 10 times and recorded his first triple-double — 36 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists — in a 123-120 win at Philadelphia on Nov. 19.

During the month, James, who will turn 21 on Dec. 30, became the youngest player in league history to score 4,000 career points. The Cavaliers reeled off eight straight wins in November and ended the month with 10 wins for the first time since 1977-78. Last season, James was twice named the East's player of the month.

Elton Brand of the Los Angeles Clippers was named the Western Conference's best player in November.

The Cavs open a three-game West Coast trip in Seattle on Friday.

Blake likes new NHL

BLAKE, FROM PAGE 12

With the Avalanche trailing 4-2 in the third period to the Red Wings he helped find his defensive line mate to pull the Avalanche within one with just under 12 minutes to play. His pass on the left side of the zone found a wide open Joe Sakic in the right circle, who found the stick of John-Michael Liles in front for a power-play goal to make it 4-3.

Liles, a former Michigan State Spartan from three years ago, has been paired with Blake in both of his first two NHL seasons. This season Liles has been one of the league's best up and coming defenseman scoring 18 points on six goals and 12 assists.

"He's been great," Blake said. "He's come in and done some unbelievable things for us — he jumps in the play, finds a lot of holes and he knows how to score."

Liles thinks the chemistry between him and Blake relates to them having similar offensive games, but he still knows that he needs

some work done to be the defensive force Blake is.

"I'm not quite the defensive-banger that he is," Liles said. "He's just a force on the ice and the other team always knows when he is out there and tries to key on him. I just try to read off of him and kind of take notes from him in practice."

"I've been fortunate enough to be partnered up with him for a few years now," he added. "Every time he's out there the other team knows it and it has made it easier for me to sneak around out there."

This season Blake is off to a good start with five goals and 13 assists as he will be looking for his seventh straight NHL All-Star appearance.

Ironically this weekend BG is playing MSU and Liles said that is another thing the two line mates joke about with each other.

"We got a little bit of rivalry going on when MSU plays BG," he said. "We like to brag and poke fun at each other when those two teams play."

BG searching for league wins

HOCKEY, FROM PAGE 12

nationally with 21 points.

Despite the talent, BG has lacked special teams production in the past few weeks as the power-play struggled to a 1-17 effort against the Red Hawks last week while the penalty-kill gave up four goals in 15 Miami opportunities.

"Our penalty-kill has certainly been in the ballpark, but it's our power-play recently that has really been struggling," Paluch said. "We're not just struggling to score goals, but struggling to really gain an identity right now. Which is kind of strange because we have some pretty good scorers out there and just haven't been able to put that together consistently on the power-play."

Another thing that has been hurting the Falcons is three checking from behind penalties the team has been called for in the last three weeks. It's a penalty that is being enforced more as the league is trying to protect players and results in a five-minute major with either a game misconduct or disqualification.

"Obviously there is never a good time to have a five-minute major, but our timing has hurt us," Paluch said. "I think with the emphasis on the rule in the way it's being called, in really two of the three game misconducts we've had have been calls that really haven't been called in the past. In a way it really didn't seem like it was checking from behind, but the way it's being called now we really have to learn

in those situations that it's going to get called."

BG will look to correct their misfortunes against an MSU team they split four games with last year and are 4-10-1 against in their last 15 meetings.

"We're looking for a huge turn around weekend here," Hodgson said. "We're a team that we know how we can play and we just got to apply it."

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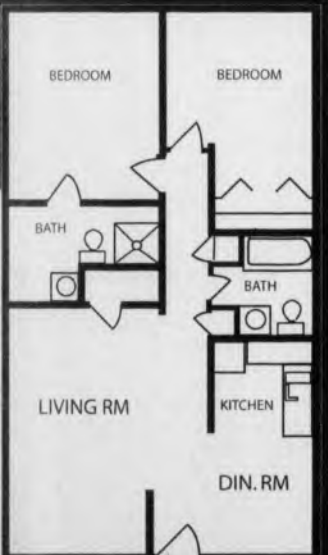
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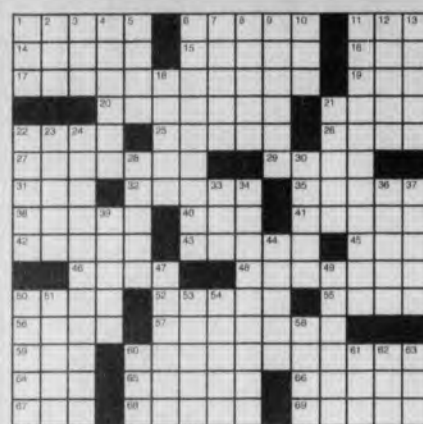
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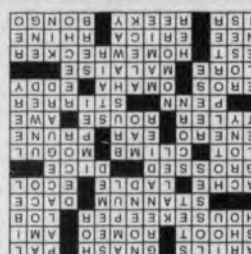


- 1 Fire remnant
2 Pl follower
3 Debt reminder
4 Insurance claims
5 Order from Perry White
6 British Guards
7 Without stopping
8 Medicine vial
9 Appeared to be
10 Opp. of vertical
11 Detroit Piston player at home?
12 Gas name
13 Defame
14 Clark Kent's real name
21 Interior design
22 Shoe lace tip
23 Long-time chum
24 Ale at the Ritz?
28 Spurn
30 Noted architect
33 Noted Red leader
34 Reject disdainfully
36 Not married
37 Untrusting
39 "Harlem Nights" co-star Della
44 Step
47 That's enough!
49 Reverberate anew
50 1985 John Malkovich film
51 Blush wines
53 First Lady of the '50s
54 Smart follower?
58 Novi Sad resident
60 Of a female
61 Reunion attendees
62 Chang's brother
63 Old Olds

ACROSS

- 1 Seed coverings
6 Grind, as teeth
11 Good buddy
14 Okay, speak!
15 Juliet's beau
16 Rene's friend
17 Successful divorcee?
19 Tennis stroke
20 Tin
21 Bluish-green fish
22 Soreness
25 Bisque server
26 EPA's concern
27 Took in
29 Tossed items
31 Used-car site
32 Go up
35 Tycoon
38 Madrid month
40 Jug handle
41 Winkled fruit
42 10th U.S. president
43 Provoke
45 Reverence
46 NYC station
48 Swizzle stick
50 Aphrodite's child
52 Nebraska's largest city
55 Whirl of water
56 Traditional knowledge
57 Physical discomfort
59 Boston hrs.
60 Demolition expert?
64 Born
65 Susan Lucci's soap role
66 German river
67 Neighbor of Leb.
68 Smelling of fumes
69 Kind of drum

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JUST FRIENDS (PG-13) 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:05
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• RENT (PG-13) 1:20 4:15 7:10 10:00
WALK THE LINE (PG-13) 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
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Stephanie Valentine
Danielle Maune
Bianca Arriazola
Emily Ream
Meredith Coakley
Michelle Schatz
Monica Kristek
Emily Granata
Caitlin Klaine
Elise Adams
Julie Hummel
Bridget Tighe
Tricia Burger
Lisa Kahle
Sarah Hamen
Katie McCool
Katie Gordyan
Lisa Yearsin
Kristi Sulewski
Lacy Spurgeon

Robby Swaisgood
Dan Reed
Kyle Hallowell
Kim Brunn
Prince Charming
Hunter Dahl
Joseph Mancuso
Michael French
Andy Hartman
Peter Crinc
Johnny Boyd
Will Pierce
Michael Minx
Brian Hunter
Courtney Johnson
Joe Litniger
Chad Michael Murray
Carmen Alvarez
Keith Baker
Michael Garman
Kyle Renick
David Goetz
Sean Mika
Joe Schmo
Dave Waterman
Jessie Lucko
Brad Pitt
John Cozart
Craig Schemmel
Harry Potter
Joe Tingley
Ian Lane
Kimberlee Taylor
Orlando Bloom
Aaron Claus

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